



## GW I UPDATE – 9 December 2020



GRADUATE WOMEN INTERNATIONAL TOOLKIT  
**ELIMINATING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE  
THROUGH WOMEN-LED STRATEGIC ADVOCACY  
FOR SYSTEMIC CHANGE**

16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence  
25 November - 10 December 2020

*The Graduate Women International (GWI) 16 Days of Activism Against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Campaign (16 Days of Activism) ends tomorrow!*

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## — Graduate Women International News —

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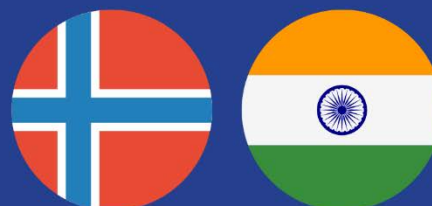
### **Congratulations to GWI NFAs in Norway and India on their 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary!**

In 2020, several GWI National Federations and Associations (NFAs) around the world followed in GWI's footsteps by celebrating their 100th anniversary of existence! Amongst those centennial NFAs are the [Indian Federation of University Women's Associations](#) (IFUWA) and [Graduate Women-Norway](#) (GW-N), both created in 1920, just a year after GWI, then known as the International Federation of University Women (IFUW). GWI is proud and honoured to join these NFAs in celebrating this extraordinary milestone and a century of vital contributions to the empowerment of women and girls through education. GWI NFAs are the foundations, the hope and the drive of GWI's work and mission. We look forward to the next hundred years of collective action for women's right to education at the highest level, thanks to the extraordinary potential and support of our 14 000 women-strong global network of graduate women.



*Graduate Women International, empowering women and girls through lifelong education and training*

**GWI congratulates Graduate Women Norway and the Indian Federation of University Women's Associations on their centenary celebrations!**



### **GWI International Advocacy Webinar Series recordings are now available!**

Thank you for making the GWI International Advocacy Webinar Series *"Putting the pieces together and raising women's voices through strategic advocacy in a changing world"* such a tremendous success! The webinar series kicked off on 29 October 2020 and spanned five weeks. Organised by GWI Vice President, Advocacy and Education, Louise McLeod, and GWI Executive Director, Stacy Dry Lara, with special contribution by the GWI Education Committee, these webinars informed members about GWI's international advocacy strategy and demonstrated how members can develop strategic advocacy plans for their NFAs. Missed the chance to participate? The recordings of all the GWI International Advocacy Webinar series are available [HERE](#). The videos are password protected and accessible freely to GWI members. If you do not yet receive webinar invitations and do not have a password for these, please email [gwi@graduatewomen.org](mailto:gwi@graduatewomen.org) to request one.

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## — GWI Member News —

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### **GW “Peace Through Education” Conference Presenter contributes to Indian national mathematics curriculum with an exclusive workbook series**

In 2019, on the occasion of the GW “Peace through Education” International Conference in Geneva, Dr. Rahael Koshy Jalan, member of IFUWA, conducted a well-attended workshop on “Successful Strategies in Teaching Mathematics”. Dr. Koshy Jalan has translated her invaluable knowledge regarding maths teaching in a series of seven workbooks now used by many students throughout India. The books series, entitled “The language of Mathematics” is part of the “Math Yes We Can” programme, created by Dr. Koshy Jalan in order to provide students from all backgrounds with a solid foundation in mathematics required for post-secondary level mathematics courses such as introductory Calculus. The book series is currently used by the IFUWA Pune Branch as part of their ongoing Math Academy Programme. Dr. Koshy Jalan further created a series of teaching videos to share with students, thus providing them with even more opportunities to learn and enhance their mathematics skills and knowledge. GWI congratulates Dr. Koshy Jalan for her crucial contribution to the Indian mathematics curriculum and her work to provide all students in India with opportunities to enhance their abilities. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about the Dr. Rahael Koshy Jalan’s work and [HERE](#) to learn more about IFUWA Pune’s Math Academy.

### **IFUWA Vadadora celebrates the Navratri Festival**



*IFUWA Vadadora and Vatsalya Foundation work to promote women and girls’ access to menstrual hygiene.*

During the Indian festival of Navratri, people worship the courage and power of Goddess Durga as a symbol of every woman’s strength and ability to change the world. On this occasion, IFUWA Vadadora and Vatsalya Foundation organised a nine-day long, online Navratri celebration of women’s empowerment, highlighting the importance of menstrual hygiene for all women and girls. GWI is inspired by both organisations’ crucial contribution to women and girls’ safe access to menstrual hygiene management and reminds that, despite being a universal phenomenon for women, menstruation is still too often stigmatized and treated as a taboo, which is linked to high rates of Menstrual Hygiene Insecurity. Learn more about this successful event [HERE](#).

### **South African Association of Women Graduates (SAAWG) shares COVID-19 survey results**

The disruptive effects of the COVID-19 outbreak have impacted almost all sectors of our societies. Higher education is no exception and anecdotal evidence paints a bleak picture for both students and universities. Earlier this year, SAAWG’s Cap Town Branch members prepared and conducted a survey shedding light on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on college students. Thirteen students, mainly SAAWG Bursary holders across South Africa, responded to the survey. Click [HERE](#) to access the full survey summary.

## WG-USA to hold a workshop on Domestic Violence in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)

On Saturday, 12 December 2020 at 1:00pm Central Standard Time (CST), the WG-USA Professional Networking Group will be holding a public online debate on Domestic Violence among Women and Girls in the DRC. The debate will be hosted by Ms. Magda Kaniki. Click [HERE](#) or on the attached picture for more information on the workshop.



## EAGW holds BRPID “Towards a Safe Environment at Work” workshop



*Arch. Perine Wadgy with workshop speakers and organisers*

As part of their current Bina Roy Partners in Development (BRPID) project the Egyptian Association of Graduate Women (EAGW) organised an online workshop entitled “Towards a Safe Environment at Work” in which the focus was GBV at work. The event also aligned with this year’s 16 Days of Activism Against GBV campaign.

The workshop focused on laws for syndicates and how to manage safe and harassment-free working environments. The workshop also examined the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Violence and Harassment Convention 190 (C190) adopted 10 June 2019 with discussions on problems and solutions for women who have been harassed at

work. Speakers included Dr. Niazi Mustafa, Professor of Law Cairo University; Researcher and Professor Mona Ezzat; and Professor Mr. Mohamed Mustafa, specialising in industrial relations. The next session of this project will be held on 16 January 2021.

“With great pride and happiness, I thank everyone who contributed to the direction of the workshop during the 16 Days of Activism campaign on violence against women. We have the honor to host members of the Women's Committee of the General Trade Union for Construction and Timber”, said Arch. Perine Wadgy, Project Manager.

GWU congratulates the event organizers Arch. Perine Wadgy, Project Manager; Mrs. Hanan Elsanhory, Project Coordinator; and Arch. Tivoli Tawfik, Project Organizer and thanks them for their dedication.

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## — Advocacy —

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### **The GWI 2020 16 Days of Activism ends tomorrow!**

This year, GWI joined hands with the global movement to end GBV by taking part in the 16 Days of Activism, an annual movement aiming to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls around the world. Beginning 25 November, with the International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women and concluding with Human Rights Day on 10 December, the Campaign unites the voices of millions of women and girls to raise awareness about GBV, work to eliminate all forms of GBV and demand equal protection and full access to fundamental human rights of safety and education.

The aim of the [2020 GWI 16 Days of Activism Toolkit](#) is to raise awareness about and advocate for the elimination of all forms of GBV in public and private spheres through a united, global voice and to guide GWI members along their path to strategic advocacy against GBV. GBV is not an emerging issue for GWI. However, the sudden and severe increase of GBV occurrences in the context of the current global COVID-19 pandemic is raising it to an unprecedented level of emergency. The commitment of all GWI members and followers is critical to support the extraordinary women and girls around the world who are fighting back against GBV every day. This interactive toolkit includes impactful and easy-to-use resources. GWI members and followers can participate in this international movement by creating their own strategic advocacy plan, tailored to the context and needs of their local and national communities. **We urge you to widely share this timeless toolkit as a guide to eliminate GBV. Together we can end GBV!**

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## — Call for applications —

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### **Swedish Institute Scholarships for Global Professionals**

The SI Scholarship for Global Professionals aims to develop future global leaders that will contribute to the United Nations (UN) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and contribute to a positive and sustainable development in their home countries and region. The scholarship is intended for full-time one-year or two-year master's programmes. The programme is funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The scholarship is available for citizens from [42 countries](#) and applications will open up on **8 February 2021**. Click [HERE](#) for more information.

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## — GWI at the United Nations —

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### **GWI marks Human Rights Day**

Each year on 10 December, GWI joins the United Nations in saluting Human Rights Day. This day marks the landmark adoption of the [Universal Declaration of Human Rights](#) (UDHR) by the UN General Assembly in 1948. The UDHR is a milestone document that proclaims the inalienable rights which everyone is entitled to as a human being. With this year's Human Rights Day theme "Recover Better – Stand Up for Human Rights", the UN upholds that COVID-19 recovery will consider all human rights. In parallel and as conclusion to the 16 Days of Activism Against GBV, GWI tomorrow will publish social media that echoes the importance of human rights in COVID-19 recovery efforts. GWI will also celebrate founding mother, Virginia Gildersleeve, who played an essential role in the inclusion of women's rights in the UDHR. Please FOLLOW, LIKE and SHARE GWI on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

## **GWI UN Representatives Report: Beijing+25 Civil Society Town Hall**

Recently, GWI UN Representatives Sophie Turner Zaretsky represented our international network of graduate women at the Beijing+25 Civil Society Town Hall. In the format of a virtual intergenerational discussion, this meeting addressed the following theme “General Equality: the new normal we want to build post COVID-19”. Click [HERE](#) to read Sophie’s full report of the event.

## **Outcomes of the UN Human Rights Council (HRC) and General Assembly**

The UN held its 45<sup>th</sup> session of the HRC (14 September-7 October), as well as the 75<sup>th</sup> session of the General Assembly (15-30 September). These meetings were marked by new forms of participation due to COVID-19 such as virtual participation in online side events and some debates opened spaces for those unable to travel to Geneva and New York. Click [HERE](#) to access summaries of outcomes and civil society engagement. Click [HERE](#) to read the GWI’s HRC45 written statement highlighting distance learning and digital technologies as a strategical and challenging turn towards inclusive access to education for women and girls.

## **United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 turns 20**

This October marked the 20th anniversary of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325, which institutionalized the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. The adoption of this resolution acknowledged for the first time that efforts to build and maintain peace and security are more sustainable when women meaningfully participate and have influence in political and security decision-making processes, and when women and girls are safe from violence, in conflict and crises. This landmark resolution set the foundation for a series of nine additional resolutions on enhancing the roles, perspectives, and needs of women and women and girls in conflict and crises, and that addressing conflict-related sexual violence is a matter of international peace and security.

For this anniversary GWI calls on the UN Member States to build upon progress worldwide to ensure women are guaranteed the meaningful protection and participation mandated by UNSCR 1325. To participate in the success of the UNSCR 1325 and enhance women’s role in preventing, resolving, and recovering from conflict, GWI works tirelessly to take meaningful action towards the implementation of the Women, Peace and Security agenda. We invite the UN and the international community to join us in taking meaningful action that contributes to the implementation of the Women, Peace, and Security agenda.

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— Give the gift of education —

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This holiday season, change the lives of women and girls around the world by donating to GWI. Every donation makes a difference and help us in our vital work to empower women and girls through education. Thank you for your support! Click [HERE](#) to donate to GWI.

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## — Did you know? —

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Did you know that GWI Vice President Marketing, Glenda Hecksher, is calling for members to join an Ad Hoc Marketing Committee to coordinate a GWI Series of Art Contests? The Committee's aim is to set goals and execute a GWI Art Contest. The contests will bring together GWI NFAs through art experience defined by the Committee. Click [HERE](#) to read Circular 6 and learn more on the Ad Hoc Marketing Committee for the GWI Series of Art Contests and how to join the committee.

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## — Other information and events —

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10 December	Human Rights Day, Global
18 December	International Migrants Day, Global
25 Nov-10 Dec	16 Days of Activism Campaign, Global
20 December	International Human Solidarity Day, Global
6 February	International Day of Zero Tolerance to Female Genital Mutilation, Global
11 February	International Day of Women and Girls in Science, Global
9-20 March 2021	Commission on the Status of Women 64 <sup>th</sup> session, New York

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## Follow us on social media!



Empowering women and girls through lifelong education for leadership, decision-making and peace. GWI, formerly IFUW, is in special consultative status with ECOSOC since 1947 and is an NGO maintaining official relations with UNESCO and ILO.

### **Graduate Women International**

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